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12 March 1966

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
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\*Indonesia: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Indonesian Army this morning assumed what appears to be de facto control of the government.

In the early hours of Saturday morning, Radio Djakarta announced that President Sukarno had instructed General Suharto to take all measures to preserve security and order and to "safeguard the personal safety, prestige, and leadership of the President - Supreme Commander - Great Leader of the Revolution." The announcement, signed by Suharto in behalf of Sukarno, concluded with the hope that the people's demands, which have been "heard and noticed by the President," would be fulfilled.

Following this announcement, Indonesian Army units staged a full-dress parade through the streets of Djakarta. During the course of the parade Radio Djakarta broadcast another Suharto order in behalf of Sukarno that officially banned the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI)--a move that up to now Sukarno had steadfastly resisted.

Political party leaders issued a statement this morning hastily retracting their 10 March public disapproval of recent antigovernment agitation and voiced a determination to "crush" the PKI.

[The army's showdown with Sukarno occurred after General Suharto discovered yesterday that Sukarno had decided to dismiss him; West Java commander General Adjie, and Djakarta military commander Machmud. Suharto sent Sukarno an ultimatum, the precise terms of which are unknown. [redacted] Sukarno, who had retired to his Bogor Palace, acquiesced to the army's demands shortly after midnight this morning.]

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[According to Indonesian journalists, Sukarno--along with Foreign Minister Subandrio, the army's principal

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target, and Third Deputy Premier Chaerul Saleh--has been escorted back to Djakarta from his Bogor Palace and is now presiding over a meeting of regional military commanders.]

[The army has begun to arrest some 20 leftist cabinet ministers. [redacted] leftist air force commander Muljono is one of those now under arrest. Although some gunfire has been heard in Djakarta, possibly in connection with the army arrests, the US Embassy reports that there have been no signs of unusual military operations or of violence in the city since dawn.]

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Regardless of what quid pro quo, if any, Sukarno may have extracted from the army, governmental authority appears to rest at least temporarily with the army, which can be expected to move quickly to complete its intended purge of leftist elements in the government.

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\*Guatemala: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

Chief of Government Peralta has so far withstood pressure from conservative military officers bent on denying the Revolutionary Party (PR) its apparent victory at the polls.

On 11 March Peralta visited principal military installations in the capital to explain to the officers that his regime has decided to allow the PR to assume power if it legally wins the election. Peralta also reportedly assured them that after the PR assumes power, the high command will watch the regime carefully for evidence of Communist infiltration and will act if this is noted.

Peralta's determination to preserve the unity of the armed forces favors at least short-term stability. Those high-ranking officers who have expressed their intolerance and fear of a PR victory will probably continue to seek support for preventing a PR presidency, but Peralta's warning of the danger of civil war and of US opposition to a coup seems to have swayed the majority of the high command.

The latest unofficial election results indicate that the PR has won 29 of the 55 congressional seats, a majority that would ensure the selection of Julio Cesar Mendez as president.

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\* Dominican Republic: [Juan Bosch reportedly has advised the provincial government that, for the moment at least, he will not participate in the forthcoming elections.]

[On 10 March Bosch turned down Provisional President Garcia Godoy's offer of free time on the state-owned television network on the grounds that neither he nor the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) will take part in the campaign.]

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[While Bosch has said before that conditions suitable for a presidential election are lacking in the Dominican Republic, this is the first time he has said that he and the PRD would refuse to field candidates.]

[Threatening to boycott the election suggests that the PRD leader is attempting to pressure the provisional government into complying with his demands for a crackdown on the political right and an overhaul of the police and military. If he does campaign, he is likely to repeat this threat or later vow to withdraw in order to elicit popular sympathy or to avoid defeat, should that appear inevitable.]

[In the meantime, on 11 March Bosch avoided any direct public statement of his intentions. During a radiobroadcast yesterday, the PRD leader again contented himself with castigating President Garcia Godoy for what Bosch said was a failure to abide by the terms of the Act of Reconciliation--the agreement that established the provisional government.]

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NOTES

Syria: [ Dissension within the two-week-old military regime in Damascus is increasing. Major General Salah Jadid, secretary general of the provisional Syrian Baath Party leadership, is already in conflict with military leaders who participated in the coup of 23 February. An election of a new Baath ruling committee is to be held within the next few days and could spark an open conflict among competing military commanders.]

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